

season varied from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,500 per bale and foreign exchange equivalent of Rs. 1700 crore (approx.) was incurred.

(e) The domestic availability of cotton is sufficient to meet the domestic demand. However, import of cotton is under OGL to enable the user industry to procure cotton of desired quality parameters.

Collapse of surface earth at Deolabeda Underground Colliery

*252. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information about the collapse of surface earth at Deolabeda Underground Colliery area due to non-filling of adequate sand;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are many instances and complaints of collapse of surface earth in Talcher and IB Valley Collieries in the past; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the reasons and ensure action against the persons who are responsible for these mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Remote presence facilitation system at Qutab Minar

*253. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourists for the first time can enjoy the view from the top of the Qutab Minar without actually climbing up all the way, with remote presence facilitation system; and

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(b) if so, whether Government have any plan for such a facility being made available at other historical monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed that this pilot project for IT application be made available at other historical monuments through ASI, State Governments and other competent organisations subject to necessary safeguards.

Competition in textile exports

*254. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the matter of textile exports stiff competition is posed by our neighbouring countries particularly China and Bangladesh;

(b) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry have made certain suggestions for strengthening international competitiveness in the field; and

(c) if so, the steps that have been taken by Government in the light of these suggestions and for exploiting the international market for its textile products in view of the stiff competition?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) had got a study conducted from an international consultant firm in 1999 on building India's competitiveness in textile sector. This and a few other studies have *inter-alia* emphasised the need for garment driven growth, modernisation and technological upgradation, human resource development, strategic alliances and investment to enable the industry to meet the international competition successfully.

(c) Subsequent to the above studies, Government announced